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Item 55 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 10 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to request you, under rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to include in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, owing to the fundamental change in the international situation and to the coexistence of two Governments across the Taiwan Strait".

The Republic of Panama has taken due note that during the consideration of the agenda of the fifty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was taken up on 9 September 1998, the sensitive issue of the representation of the Republic of China on Taiwan within the United Nations system arose once again.

In the view of the Republic of Panama, the so-called "Chinese question" can be settled only by express recognition that there is only one Chinese nation and that the historical factors that have hindered achievement of the final solution of the reunification of the Chinese people, a people which is held in great esteem by the rest of the world, will be overcome by the Chinese themselves, in a climate of peace, comprehension and mutual respect, without external interference of any kind.

However, the Republic of Panama, having considered the initiative taken by a number of States, reiterates that there are important considerations regarding the actual humanitarian, social and financial situation – as well as in the Taiwan Strait – that must be considered carefully and in depth when the Bureau adopts a decision on the matter. In particular, the Republic of Panama, which maintains diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, wishes to draw attention to the need to take account of the fact that the Republic of China on Taiwan acquires rights and undertakes obligations under international law,

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meets universal legal requirements in many areas and acts in the manner in which States that are represented in the United Nations system generally act.

Since the issue in question is extremely complex, the Republic of Panama – as a country bordering the Pacific Ocean that is about to assume responsibility for operating the inter-ocean canal, whose neutrality calls for peaceful use and innocent passage by the ships of all nations – reaffirms its traditional willingness to maintain strong links based on respect for, and friendship with, all States and to normalize its relations with all users of the canal.

I should like to request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 55 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Aquilino E. **Boyd**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative